



CHEAP STREET CHURCH

To know the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit and with Jesus as our teacher to show and share our faith.

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NEWSLETTER

6th August 2020

Raymond Wood has written stressing that the Friendship Benches at Cheap Street would not be restricted to grandmothers – see the recent *Cheapstreeter* and last week's *Newsletter*.

We rely on several members to print the newsletter for those who don't use email. This week's newsletter has less colour and should be easier to email. The deadline for contributions is midday on Wednesday so that we can post some copies on Wednesday afternoon.

DUNCAN'S MESSAGE

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 105:1-6, Genesis 37:1-4 & 12-28, Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-33.

While in Manchester visiting my mother last week, from the local news I was aware of the growing rate of people being infected with the Corona Virus, and that the area could be heading towards a local lockdown. It was not the news of the lockdown that was the surprise, it was the time of night and the release of the news on Twitter that was the surprise. Not being on Twitter it was only later when reported on Thursday late night news broadcasts that I heard about the government's message and advice. Paul, in our reading from Romans, is concerned that the message that we have to share about the good news of the forgiveness that Jesus has won for us all through his death and resurrection, should be shared with as many people as possible, and not be limited to just one group of people, whether that be defined by age, race, or the social media you use or don't use. The good news of God's love and forgiveness is for everyone.

In Genesis this week we meet Joseph, who is sent by his father Jacob, to bring him a message as to how his brothers and the families flocks are doing. Unfortunately Jacob in how he treated Joseph more favourably than the rest of his brothers had already sent a message to them that they were second best. Joseph has not helped himself and even played on this. His coat, whether it was one of many colours or a long sleeve coat, would have just stated again Jacob's preference for Joseph over them. They take their opportunity and, after deciding not to kill Joseph, they sell him into slavery. That would you be, you might think, the last you would hear of Joseph, but Joseph is destined to tell the messages that God places in dreams of the Pharaoh in Egypt, that will save not only the Egyptians from hunger but many different peoples including Joseph's family.

In Matthew we meet the disciples of Jesus as they struggle to cross lake Galilee in a storm. Just when they thought it could not get any worse, they see what they take to be a ghost or some evil spirit coming towards them. But it is Jesus coming to be with them in the midst of their struggle. Peter even leaves the boat and manages to walk on the water until he starts to think that this is not possible and Jesus has to reach out and save him. Jesus' message to the disciples is to trust and believe in him in all circumstances.

The circumstances of the Covid 19 pandemic and the changes to our lives that it continues to bring, are not what any of us would have chosen, but we need to keep trusting and calling out to God, and telling in whatever way we can the good news about what Jesus has done for us all.

Hymn: *Singing The Faith* 418 We have a gospel to proclaim [click for YouTube version](#).

DON FARQUHARSON'S THOUGHT FOR THE DAY – I will sing

I will sing, I will sing, a song unto the Lord (SOF 855) [YouTube Salisbury Cathedral](#)

Singing since time immemorial by all peoples has been a way of expressing our emotions.

For some people the ideal time is in the bath as they relax in the warm waters. For others it is out in the countryside as they realise the beauty of their surroundings. We have just been camping and I warmed to hear the uninhibited singing/humming of tiny children as they made their way to the loo first thing in the morning. The day for them held great prospects.

It is said Methodism was born in song. We express our praise and thanks to the One who created and sustains us usually in a song that someone else has been moved by the Spirit to compose and record. We can now sing anywhere so long as we are not gathered in groups. So no more singing as we worship together before the Lord

Why? Because the experts say that singing produces 99 times higher 'emissions' of droplets than speaking. These aerosols can spread the virus and emissions of them were found to be up to 330 times higher during singing than breathing. So the cheeky virus has even chosen to hitch a ride on our praises but it has been spotted!!.

Now our camping kettle 'sings' when it is ready to make the tea. We were next to the Swanage railway and those great engines know how to sing with a head of steam.

So during our worship time together, whenever that begins, we will be building up a head of steam to the glory of the Lord in anticipation of the time when we can release it in the freedom of the outside.

It is said that we all wear masks as we meet and greet each other. 'How are you' Oh fine!! As we fight back the horror that is really inside. So now it is for real and one upmanship can have a field day as we display our designer models. And it will be more difficult to differentiate the happy or sadness that lies behind.

We will adapt and consider ourselves fortunate that we still want to meet and because the Lord has been with us all the time anyway we will rejoice.

PS for those who like a rhyme:

When things go wrong as they sometimes will
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill
When the funds are low and the debts are high
And you want to smile but you have to sigh
When care is pressing you down a bit
Rest if you must but don't you quit.

NEWS FROM JOHN STANFIELD



John Stanfield has been busy. He has been interviewed by BBC Breakfast to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the second World War. The recording will be shown sometime in the next few days. John was also interviewed by the Royal Corps of Signals to mark the Corps centenary in June: [click here](#).

FUNERALS

Gill Hunt on Thursday 6 August at Yeovil Crematorium.

John Hooper on Friday 14 August at Mendip Crematorium. John was the husband of Carol and the son-in-law of Evelyn Reeves.

FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

Whenever and wherever we pray in the silence of our hearts, we are part of a rich and powerful fellowship, which serves to sustain everyone in our Church Family. Anyone can join the prayer group by just praying.

We pray particularly for John Hunt and his family, for Carol Hooper and her family and we continue to pray for all those who are in special need: John Green; Janet Baker; Paul Wilkins; Martin Heal; Helen Winkworth and her family; Phyllis Batchelor; Duncan's mother; Kathy Crew; Clive and Jill Turner, Ellie and Sophie; Janet Dolling and her family; Judith Hayward and her family; Eileen Higgins; Alex Palmer; Peter and Marjorie Kett; Christina Le Moignan (continuing eye problems).

The Prayer Ring is available for an urgent need or situation.

Call any of these numbers and the circle of prayer will begin:

Eirwen Cox 01935 815960, Penny Gardner 01935 389153, Janet Le Moignan 01935 389662.

PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Mauritania

It is illegal for Mauritians to convert from Islam to Christianity. It's also seen as a betrayal of tribe and family in Mauritania's very tribal culture.

Believers there often have to keep their faith completely secret. Ostracism from one's family and community doesn't just mean disgrace - it could mean death, since the extended family is often necessary for survival in Mauritania's nomadic communal society.

Let us pray that Mauritanian Christians will find ways to meet, despite the dangers. That believers will be able to share their faith without being prosecuted; and for strength and wisdom for Open Doors partners as they support the church in North Africa. Amen.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Radio 4: 8.10 am – *The Cross and Black Liberation*.

Methodist resources: [click here](#). URC resources: [click here](#).

The digital edition of the URC monthly magazine *Reform* is on free access during the lockdown: [click here](#).

URC: [daily devotions and a Sunday service \(click here to subscribe\)](#).

MUSIC AT GILLINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH

The first online organ recital, *A Celebration of JS Bach*, is now available: [click here](#).

SHERBORNE ABBEY

The Abbey has parish worship at 9.30 am on Sunday and is open for private prayer on Thursday between 11 am and 1 pm.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

The newsletter is compiled by Penny Gardner or George Faris. Please send contributions by midday Wednesday to:

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